



Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

Pepin County



County characteristics

- 232 sq. miles
- Farmland county with wooded hills, remnant prairies, and river bottomlands
- 16.4 sq. miles of water: 25 miles of the Chippewa River, 16 miles of Mississippi River, numerous backwater lakes and ponds, 10 brook and brown trout streams for a total of 38 miles
- Largely agricultural county but development and recreational ownership is increasing
- There are 7200 residents living in Pepin County

State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing

- 4,700 acres of state land including wildlife and natural areas all open to hunting
- Locate DNR properties at: http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_lands_mapping.html



Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you

- DNR Service Center supporting Pepin Co: 890 Spruce St., Baldwin, 54002: 1 Warden Supervisor; 1 Fisheries Biologist & 1 Fish Technician; 2 Customer Service Reps serving St. Croix, Polk, Pierce, Pepin and Dunn counties
- Field station: 921 Brickyard Rd., Menomonie, 54751: 1 Wildlife Biologist (vacant) & 1 Wildlife Technician; 2 Conservation Wardens stationed in Dunn Co.
- Field station: 740 7th Ave. W, Box 39, Durand, 54736: 1 Conservation Warden
- Mississippi River Work Unit: 2 Fisheries staff (Alma), 2 Wildlife staff (LaCrosse). This staff also serves Pierce County and Buffalo County.

Activities Funded by Your Hunting and

Fishing Dollars

- Establish and maintain grassland and wetland habitat for ducks, pheasants, and other wildlife.
- Established the Lower Chippewa State Natural Area in 2000 to preserve & restore hillside prairies, bottomland hardwoods & rare fish communities in Pepin, Dunn & Buffalo counties.
- Manage fish populations and habitat in area lakes, rivers & streams. Protect & enhance high quality trout streams. Restore lake fisheries through aeration and regulation.
- Set fishing regulations and stock public waters.
- Carry out fish, wildlife, environmental & habitat enforcement
- Provide instruction at all hunter education courses
- Restore fish & wildlife habitat on the Mississippi River, its backwater lakes & sloughs.

- Prevent and control exotic and invasive species such as purple loosestrife, zebra mussel, leafy spurge, wild parsnip, spotted knapweed, thistle, goldenrod, and boxelder to assure quality native habitat.
- Post public hunting, fishing and access sites, build and maintain parking areas.
- Monitor local fish and wildlife populations of ducks, geese, pheasants, grouse, woodcock, deer, eagles, brook trout, game fish & important non-game species.
- Respond to wildlife damage and nuisance complaints; investigate fish kills; monitor fish and wildlife contaminants & diseases including CWD, West Nile Virus, and mercury in fish.
- Evaluate proposed projects for environmental impacts; work to keep habitats intact and functioning for fish and wildlife.
- Provide educational programs for schools, conservation organizations, civic groups & youth programs.
- On the entire Mississippi River bordering Wisconsin, continue to add at least 400 restored acres per year to the 7,100 acres completed since 1989.
- Work with federal agencies to leverage over \$500,000/year for Mississippi River habitat work using \$38,000/year of state money.
- Continue to leverage \$430,000/year in federal money to monitor fish, invertebrates, plants and water quality on the Mississippi River
- Manage and monitor recreational and commercial fisheries on the Mississippi River.

Pepin County Conservation Snapshots

3 ALIS License Agents Supported
3 Deer, Turkey & Bear Registration Stations
75-100 hotline complaints investigated
38 miles of trout streams
6 public boat landings



Fish & Wildlife Stocking Summary

- 1,400 legal brook trout stocked in Arkansaw and Bear Creek annually
- 18,200 wild strain brook trout fingerlings in 5 streams annually

County Success Stories

- Establishment of a self sustaining population of pheasants from genetically superior brood stock.
- Establishment of the Lower Chippewa River Natural Area to protect endangered and threatened fish and wildlife habitat and unique natural communities.
- The Chippewa River corridor contains the greatest concentration of rare species (125) in the state.

Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
 - Fish and wildlife stocking programs: Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management

Want to Learn More? Go to dnr.wi.gov/invest

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